

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

P R O C E E D I N G S

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, June 11, 1975

7:00 P. M.

H. CLAY LUTTRELL, CHAIRMAN

Municipal Auditorium  
Lafayette, Louisiana

P R O C E E D I N G S

The special Board Meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission was held on Wednesday, June 11, 1975, at 7:00 P. M., at the Municipal Auditorium, Lafayette, Louisiana, with H. Clay Luttrell, Chairman, presiding.

PRESENT WERE:

H. CLAY LUTTRELL, CHAIRMAN

MARC DUPUY, JR., MEMBER

JEAN LAPEYRE, MEMBER

JIMMIE THOMPSON, MEMBER

DONALD F. WILLE, MEMBER

ABSENT:

JERRY JONES, MEMBER

DOYLE BERRY, VICE CHAIRMAN

AGENDA

1. Consider a proposal by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service that Louisiana be zoned for the purpose of establishing regulations for hunting migratory waterfowl.

THE CHAIRMAN: If I can have your attention, please. This meeting is really unusual from my tenure on the Commission. Usually when we are considering seasons and bag limits, we are glad to have all the input we can get from the public. Then we usually have a period of about a month and sometimes more, depending upon what species we are considering. We used to make up our minds after having talked with our biologists, etc. Due to the nature of this meeting tonight, we are going to have to hear from our biologists and then take all the input that you care to give us and recess for just a short period of time and make up our minds because the answer to this question has to be back in Washington before we will have another meeting. Therefore, after the end of the discussion period, the Commission will consider the recommendations of the biologists and, of course, your ideas, and then give a report on the results of our decision. That's the format of this meeting.

Now, I believe they told me at the door that they have cards for people to sign who wanted to speak tonight. That's fine. I will call on you from the cards, but if you didn't sign a card and you want to speak, if you will hold up your hand and be recognized by the chair, I will be glad to listen to anyone here tonight on this topic.

MR. J. BURTON ANGELLE: Have the cards been provided to the Chairman at this time? Is someone-- Mac, would you look into it?

THE CHAIRMAN: I believe we are here-- We have with us Mr. Yancey, the foremost biologist in the Nation, I think.

Certainly, he is a very diligent person and I'll ask him to explain to you in the beginning before we start on the comments what the information from the Bureau is. Mr. Yancey.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission and ladies and gentlemen. We are basically gathered here tonight for the purpose of reviewing a proposal that has been made to Louisiana by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and what we would like to do is get the recommendations on this proposal from the duck hunters that are here from throughout the state as to what action the Commission should take in connection with this proposal. Before getting into the details of the proposal, we might review some of the background of this situation as it has developed over the past, actually 18 or 20 yrs., for the benefit of those that are in attendance.

Back in the mid 50's, there was some waterfowl inventory work done in the 14 states that comprised the Mississippi Flyway and it was determined at that time that the large number of ducks coming to Louisiana were getting here by traveling down the Central rather than the Mississippi Flyway. As waterfowl inventories continued to be made here in Louisiana, we began to realize that perhaps the majority of the ducks coming through Louisiana were getting here by traveling down the Central than the Mississippi Flyway, and in 1967, initial discussions were held with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine if they would be in a position to make a biological study of this matter and see if in fact Louisiana should not for management purposes be

aligned with the Central rather than the Mississippi Flyway.

At that time, they told us that they did not have either the money nor the manpower to conduct such a study and suggested that we have such a study made and in considering their stand in connection with the study, we thought that it would be better that we get someone from outside of Louisiana to make this study. We certainly have some of the best biologists in the United States right here in the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission but we felt that if our people made the study, it may be considered to be in some fashion or another biased--the conclusions and so we talked to Frank Bellrose who is with the Illinois Natural History Survey. He is one of the foremost authorities in the country on migrations and distributions of waterfowl. We requested that he conduct the study to determine just which route the ducks use in coming to Louisiana and he agreed to do so and he didn't charge the Commission anything to make this study. This study took him about 2 years and, generally, he concluded that about 60% of the mallards that come to Louisiana come to this state via the Central rather than the Mississippi Flyway. About 65% of the other ducks come to Louisiana down the Central rather than the Mississippi Flyway. He did point out to us that the ducks that use northeast Louisiana are appearing simply Mississippi Flyway oriented ducks and that the mallards that are found in that part of the state are more or less the southern edge of the Mississippi valley mallard wintering population. We also had Dr. Don Hayne over in the North Carolina Institute of Research and Statistics conduct studies as to the relationship of the harvest of ducks in Louisiana as compared to the other two flyways. He concluded

that the harvest of ducks in this state was about 11% more oriented to the Central than it was to the Mississippi Flyway. So, with these reports in hand, we then, through the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, presented a request and a recommendation that from the biological studies that had been completed that Louisiana be realigned with the Central Flyway and that we then be realigned with the Central Flyway and that we then be managed according to Central Flyway regulations. This request has been under discussion ever since.

These studies were completed back in 1972 and various meetings were held for about a year and finally the Fish and Wildlife Service gave us a letter stating that they, in considering all of this, that they would continue to manage Louisiana in the Mississippi Flyway for administrative purposes.

However, we did not let the matter drop at that point and we continued to press for realignment with the Central Flyway based upon the biological information we had at hand. Last fall, we pressed hard for it again and you all probably read a lot of articles in the newspapers that explained what was going on at that time. Just recently we have had, well, since starting back around January 1st, we have had a number of meetings with the Fish and Wildlife Service people out of Washington to review all of this information and recommendations that had been submitted and recently by letter dated May 22nd, we received a counter-proposal from the Fish and Wildlife Service and, basically, this proposal was not even close really to what we were recommending

which was a complete flyway transfer. However, it does offer certain advantages and the Commission felt that before acting upon this proposal and it does have to act on this proposal by June 15th. We wanted to completely explain this thing to the people who were interested in it here in Louisiana and get recommendations and viewpoints expressed and after we have heard what everybody had to say here tonight then the Commission will act and decide whether it is either going to accept or reject this proposal. Now, in this letter, to give some of the highlights that Mr. Greenwalt, who is the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, has in his letter. He states that they have had this matter under serious consideration for the past several months and they have had people working on available information that they had in hand and based on their review of the available information they concluded that Louisiana is an important migration and wintering area for ducks from both the Central and Mississippi Flyways and (2) the relative contributions of the two flyways cannot be differentiated on the basis of total ducks for the state as a whole. However, some differentiation is possible on the basis of different species in zones of the state; and (3) mallards, wood ducks and diving ducks harvested in Louisiana appear to be more closely associated with the Mississippi Flyway. Most other species appear to be more closely associated with the Central Flyway. No species is associated exclusively with one flyway or the other. (7) The ducks migrating to Louisiana from the breeding grounds are subjected to different hunting pressures depending upon the flyway used and on the species involved and here we all know that ducks coming down the

Mississippi Flyway are subjected to considerably more hunting pressure than are ducks that come down the Central Flyway; and (8) in general, hunting pressures are greater in the Mississippi Flyway than in the Central Flyway, while mallards and wood ducks appear to be heavily harvested regardless of the flyway used. Other species, such as, pintails, gadwalls, shovellers, teal appear to be lightly harvested as indicated by recovery rates that are low in comparison to those for mallards; and (9) this suggests that some additional hunting of these other species could be permitted in Louisiana. However, his principal concern is that every precaution must be taken to insure that nothing is done that would increase the harvest of Mississippi Flyway birds generally and wood ducks and mallards particularly. (10) A critical question that remains unanswered is the amount of additional harvest that other species can stand. Until this can be determined, any additional harvest must be carefully limited, controlled and approached on a trial basis. He states that in view of the above conclusions it is their judgment that a change in the flyway alignment of Louisiana is not warranted at this time. However, as an alternative to flyway realignment, we propose that Louisiana be divided into two zones as described on the attached map. Now, this map behind the Commission Members here shows the proposed dividing line between the eastern and western zones in Louisiana. You will note that it follows Highway 3 from the Arkansas line down to Shreveport, generally along the east side of Red River then it drops over to Minden on Highway 80 down to Ringgold over to Jonesboro down to Alexandria, Lafayette, New



Iberia, and on down Highway 90 to Houma and then the black line follows the marked Houma Navigation Channel to the Gulf of Mexico.

They state in the western zone the season length for ducks would be increased by 5 days over the eastern zone. The eastern zone, the season length for ducks would be the same as established for the Mississippi Flyway. In the western zone, the season would open on the Saturday nearest November 1st, or the first Saturday in November, whichever is deemed necessary to provide maximum protection to mallards. In other words, you are looking at a stipulation here in the western zone, if that proposal is accepted, you would get five extra days of hunting. However, the season would have to start on Saturday, November 1st this year.

The entire state would remain in the Mississippi Flyway. In both zones, bag limits would be those established for the Mississippi Flyway. If conventional bag limits are selected as opposed to the point system bag limits, there will be a restriction to two mallards. Now, as far as we have been able to determine, the hunters in Louisiana much prefer the point system over the conventional bag limit that we used to have and we would assume that the point system would be continued here as far as the hunters are concerned. In the western zone, it defines an area in Louisiana where there is an abundance of species, such as, pintail, gadwall, shovellers and teal at the time additional days are provided. These species appear to be subjected to relatively light shooting pressure enroute to Louisiana and it

is believed that the increase in harvest which would occur under this proposal would not be detrimental to these populations. It is further proposed that in conjunction with the increased season length in the western zone, an evaluation program be conducted aimed at monitoring population and harvest and provide additional information on the flyway relationships of ducks in Louisiana.

We suggested that the evaluation program include winter banding of mallards, pintail, widgeon, gadwall, etc. More intensive and detailed harvest surveys and more frequent periodic population surveys to determine size and species compositions of populations and changes in seasonal abundance. Basically, this would involve additional workloads for the commission in conducting these surveys.

We don't see any great problem with increasing the amount of census work that we do nor the amount of detail harvest survey work that we would do but we do see difficulty involved banding large numbers of certain species of ducks that will just simply not take bait.

In another letter that we have which was sent to Senator J. Bennett Johnston by Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Nathaniel P. Reed.

(The full text of the letter  
is here made a part of the record.)

"June 3, 1975

Dear Senator Johnston:

Following our meeting on Tuesday, May 27, I conferred with the

Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and have further considered your views on the request by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to be moved from the Mississippi Flyway to the Central Flyway. With my strong support, FWS proposed the following procedure to resolve Louisiana's request:

1. The western part of Louisiana, as delineated by the FWS in its Friday, May 23, meeting with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will be permitted five additional days at the beginning of the 1975-1976 Mississippi Flyway waterfowl hunting season. These five additional days will be retained by the western part of the State for four years. During this time, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and FWS will jointly undertake annual banding, harvest, and population studies to definitively determine the proportional contribution to Louisiana of various species of waterfowl from the Mississippi and Central Flyways. Details of the joint studies will be developed by Louisiana and the Service in consultation with the Mississippi and Central Flyway Councils.
2. Data derived from the four-year study, along with that already in hand, will be assembled in an environmental assessment or impact statement as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. In addition it will be used to determine what part of Louisiana, if any, will join the Central Flyway beginning in the 1979-1980 waterfowl season and what special regulations, if any, will apply to insure the protection of the

resource.

3. I will request the Central Flyway Council to invite the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to participate in council affairs as a non-voting member during the four-year interim period pending the final determination.

This procedure will insure that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will receive a final answer to its requested move within the shortest period necessary to compile the required data. Four years is the minimum time required to compile the needed biological data to resolve this issue. FWS agrees that Frank Bellrose's interpretation of the existing data is a reasonable estimate of the distribution of species wintering in Louisiana from each flyway. However, a minimum of four years of banding, harvest, and population surveys conducted in Louisiana is needed to transpose the estimate into a supportable conclusion.

The above procedure will produce a controlled change in the present regulatory arrangement in Louisiana. The data gathering program, which we feel is essential, will be focused on that change in order to shed additional light on the flyway relationship and harvest impacts.

As any final decision will affect other States in the Mississippi and Central Flyways, it is our desire to solicit their comments and support. By requesting Louisiana's interim participation in the Central Flyway Council and by encouraging

both flyway councils to participate in the four-year study, we hope to facilitate a shift to the Central Flyway if indicated by the data to be obtained.

I believe that the FWS proposal is a rational and equitable approach to resolving a complex biological issue which has the potential of degenerating into an emotional issue. By losing their flexibility and objectivity, groups with disparate interests could easily foreclose desirable change based on sound biological data. During the week of June 9, the Director of FWS is convening a meeting of concerned parties including representatives from the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, the Central Flyway Council, the Mississippi Flyway Council, Ducks Unlimited, National Wildlife Federation, and the Wildlife Management Institute to explain our proposal and to seek their views on the FWS procedure for addressing the request. By including all affected parties at this stage FWS seeks the rational, systematic, and objective resolution of this issue. I extend my personal invitation to you or your representative to participate in this meeting. I will inform you of the location, date, and time.

Admittedly the paucity of conclusive data and the potentially large impact which a change in Louisiana's hunting regulations has on the waterfowl resource has caused disappointing delay in coping with Louisiana's requested move in the past. However, I have wholeheartedly pursued my promise to you to address Louisiana's legitimate request. The FWS has reviewed all of

the existing data, outlined the biological data needed for a final determination, and offered to extend the hunting season in western Louisiana during the interim. Since our initial discussion on this subject, the FWS has communicated regularly with the Louisiana Fish and Game on this matter including a recent meeting with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to outline parts of the interim proposal. The route that we have travelled thus far and our charted course is anything but "the primrose path." Although the process appears exhausting if not endless, it is the only mechanism of which I am aware, that insures the viability of the duck population and the continued cooperation and trust of Ducks Unlimited, National Wildlife Federation, National Audubon, Wildlife Management Institute and the flyway councils, both of which are a necessary concern.

I have laid out a logical course of action with which I hope you will concur. I look forward to your comments and I hope that you or a representative from your staff will attend the meeting next week.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Nat  
Nathaniel P. Reed  
Assistant Secretary for Fish  
and Wildlife and Parks

Honorable J. Bennett Johnston, Jr.  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510"

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: Nathaniel Reed points out that these studies would have to be made for a period of four years, so basically these are the stipulations that would go if the Commission decides to accept this proposal. Now, I know a lot of you here in this room have in mind certain questions particularly as to how this will relate to the establishment of seasons and bag limits so we might point out at this time that the Commission would then set two sets of duck hunting dates for Louisiana rather than one that it now does. In other words, you would set one set of duck season dates for eastern Louisiana and another set of duck season dates for western Louisiana. The eastern Louisiana season would be set within the framework that is normally established by the Fish and Wildlife Service that runs from about October 1 to January 20th.

The western Louisiana season would be set within that same framework except, of course, we would have a stipulation that the first segment would start on November 1st, if the season were split.

The Commission would continue to be allowed to split the duck seasons in each zone in Louisiana and the season would not have to run concurrently between the two zones. They could set an early season in the west and a late season in the east, or vice versa.

As far as the bag limits are concerned, the bag limits would be the same in both zones and presumably the point system would be continued in both zones.

Now, as far as shooting hours and regulations of this

sort are concerned, the shooting hours this year, it's already been published in the Federal Register that the shooting hours will begin at thirty minutes before sunrise. It was also published in the Federal Register that we will be allowed to have this September teal season again this year which we have had and enjoyed for the past several years. This zone situation would not in any way effect those regulations, and so this more or less, I believe, covers most of the points you would have in mind.

There is probably one other major question in everybody's mind, and that is how was this line arrived at. It was arrived at by the Fish and Wildlife Service and they more or less concluded that this was the dividing line between the Mississippi Flyway ducks and the Central Flyway ducks.

We have the feeling from them that they agree with us that the ducks that come to this western part of Louisiana come down the Central Flyway and while they do agree to it, they are still not willing at this time to transfer that or any other part of Louisiana to the Central Flyway. They take the position that this thing is going to have to be thoroughly evaluated before any further steps are taken. The Commission and our Congressional delegation and others concerned have pushed this thing just as hard as it is possible to push it, and this is as much of an offer as we are going to get this year.

We are not going to be able to talk in terms of changing that line that is on that map--that's out of the question for we have moved that line as-- In meetings that we have had with them, we have moved that line as far as we can move it. We



would like to see it further east in certain parts there. But, that is absolutely as far east as they would agree to move the line.

As I said earlier, they also at this time just absolutely refuse to consider putting all or any part of Louisiana into the Central Flyway. So, we have got to decide at this point the way we want to go. Now there is one major advantage to this thing and that is it will permit the Commission to set duck season dates that would be most acceptable to the hunters in each section of Louisiana. Any time you zone a state the better you can set the duck season dates to suit people that hunt in that particular area. This, of course, is a major advantage. At this time this opportunity to zone has been offered only two states in the country. California has it and that small state of Massachusetts had it because of the sea duck situation they have up there.

This is as much as we could get out of them for this year, and we raised the question, of course, "Is this the end of the road as far as this Central Flyway proposal is concerned?" Their answer was, "no." It is definitely not the end of the road and they feel that if this is carried out, it is evaluated, and it is shown that part or more of Louisiana should be in the Central Flyway, then presumably we are going to take that up at a later date. But, now we are looking at an interim period of about four years. Basically, I believe this just about covers the subject.

Maybe some of the Commission Members can think of some point that has been left out here that would further clarify

some of the questions that probably some of you have in your minds.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dick. I have no questions, but does anyone else have one?

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: I would like to make a comment.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right, Jimmie.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: I would just like to comment, Dick, that you said the first date of November was the western half that would be for this year simply because the first day of the month is the first Saturday in the month. I think the way the thing reads is that we will open the first Saturday of the month of November.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: That is right. Over the next four years.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: Over the next four years and it just happens to be the first day of the month this year. It could be the 7th day next year.

MR. DON WILLE: I would like to say just one thing that your presentation --

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: -- on the November 1 opening date in the western zone. Now, it's true that the nesting season is getting on to a somewhat late start this year but we were up in Washington yesterday and we quizzed some of the people that are very familiar with what is going on up there. They have been up there this spring already and they tell us that water conditions on the prairies this year are as good or better than they were last year.

That was real good news and we are, of course, happy to

hear that. The purpose of this November 1 opening day is that the Commission has been running periodic waterfowl surveys in this state since 1950 and we have determined from those surveys that a large mallard flight does not initially get here until about somewhere from November 1 to November 10th, something like that. So, the whole purpose of this early opening date is to better utilize these species other than mallards and not have this big opening take on mallards. That is the whole purpose and there is no way to get them to change in that stipulation--that November 1 opening date.

I might add one other set of figures. Hugh Bateman worked out these figures for us today. I think it would be of interest to a number of people that are present as it relates to duck stamp sales in the western zone as shown on the map. 45% of the duck stamps sold in Louisiana are sold to people in the western zone. 55% in the eastern zone. About 55% of Louisiana's duck harvest takes place in the western zone and about 45% in the eastern zone. About 60% of the ducks are found in the western zone and about 40% in the eastern zone.

There are fourteen parishes that are split by the zone line.

There is one other point that I failed to bring out and someone may have this question in mind that if we live in the eastern zone can we hunt in the western zone and vice versa, and, certainly, you can. You can travel across into the other zone.

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to stop the questioning and answering just for one minute.

We have in the audience a man that is of great importance to the State of Louisiana and, also, a good friend of mine. I wish him to stand. Mr. W. T. Taylor, formerly a national president of Ducks Unlimited and he is now chairman of the board. Mr. Taylor, will you stand. (applause)

I would like to ask you if you have any comments to make during the session here. We would be glad to hear from you.

(He did not wish to speak)

MR. J. BURTON ANGELLE: Mr. Chairman, for the benefit of those present here tonight, I think we should deviate maybe a little bit from the normal procedure and it is for their benefit. I think it is most proper and in order that I introduce to you the Chairman of our Commission, who hails from Buckeye, Louisiana. His name is Mr. H. Clay Luttrell, who is serving his second one-year term as Chairman of the Commission. Mr. Clay has provided much interest and is a great leader to this Commission and to the staff of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. I would like to recognize him so you people will know who you are talking to and where these people are from.

Mr. Clay Luttrell, on my left, Chairman of the Commission.  
(applause)

And, we then ask Mr. Luttrell to introduce the members of the Commission. Mr. Clay.

THE CHAIRMAN: You know, people always do that to you. Now, my wife is not here to hear all those nice comments and so, really, it's wasted. I want her to know these things. (laughter)

MR. ANGELLE: It's on tape, Mr. Clay. We can always play it back to your wife tomorrow.

THE CHAIRMAN: OK. On my left we have Don Wille, Member from Bossier City.

Immediately on my left, Mr. Marc Dupuy, a Member from Marksville.

And, of course, you know our able Director here, Mr. J. Burton Angelle. I might say some nice things about you, if you want us to play it to your wife.

On my immediate right, Mr. Jean Lapeyre, from Houma, and then on the end, Mr. Jimmie Thompson, from Alexandria.

I made an error in Mr. Taylor's introduction. I know that W.T. is Chairman of the Highway Board and that you are Herman. But, you know, sometimes we just get mixed up. I won't tell Mr. W. T. Taylor if you won't tell him about my error.

Mr. Jerry Jones, a long-time member and a very ardent supporter of wildlife and fisheries. He is from Cameron, Louisiana. He couldn't be here with us tonight.

Mr. Doyle Berry said that he would be here if it was humanly possible. He had to fly to Boston. He is from Berwick.

I would like to say that the coastal zone, the coastal part of this state, is well represented when you consider that you have Jerry Jones, Doyle Berry and Mr. Lapeyre from down here. So, I don't believe you people are suffering too much from representation.

MR. MARC DUPUY: North Louisiana is outnumbered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't know. I don't know. There is one man that makes as much noise as all of the rest of us put

together.

MR. DON WILLE: You are absolutely right and I'm going to continue to.

THE CHAIRMAN: So, you see. We couldn't put up with but two of them.

MR. DON WILLE: Somebody has to stand up for those yankees!

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Now, I don't want to cut off any comment and before I start with the cards, would any members of the board have anything to say?

MR. MARC DUPUY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Dick Yancey just a moment. It may be premature, but perhaps if we will get over it again. Dick, in Nat Reed's recent letter of the 3rd, then Greenwalt's letter of May 22nd, both talked about evaluation programs, about monitoring populations, and harvest wanting us to cooperate to the extent of a winter banding program and intensive detailed harvest surveys and frequent population surveys and yet Mr. Reed's letter speaks in terms of an absolute necessity of a four-year period of time as being the shortest period possible to assimilate the required data that he thinks is necessary.

I'm wondering if you might have broached this subject in your meeting in Washington a couple of days ago about whether or not-- It wouldn't be of more benefit both to us and the Fish and Wildlife Service if we had a shorter period of reviewal and evaluation and appraisal and reappraisal of the progress

such as, a two-year period, for instance, instead of a four-year period.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: Well, we did discuss this point with them because four years is a long period of time to evaluate anything. However, they felt that this was a minimum period of time required to conduct the necessary evaluation and we were not able to get them to agree to shorten this study period down to two or three years.

This is one of the stipulations. If the Commission and if the people want to accept this proposal, this is one of the stipulations we are going to be locked in on a four-year study here and it is going to involve some additional outlays of manpower and funds to conduct a study.

MR. MARC DUPUY: Do you feel that--

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: What they were basically concerned about in connection with this proposal is that they don't want to increase the kill of either mallards or wood ducks but they do want to provide some additional hunting opportunity on these other mixed species of puddle ducks. They feel that these birds-- the low rate of band returns on the birds indicate that they are being harvested at a much less rate than mallards and wood ducks. They feel that by providing this proposal that perhaps we can provide more hunting opportunity on these puddle ducks other than mallards and wood ducks and without increasing the kill of mallards and wood ducks.

MR. MARC DUPUY: Do you as a recognized expert feel that the biological issues are so complex that we do need that long of a period of time.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: Well, when you get involved in winter banding and this is one of the features of this study that they are speaking of here, we'll band ducks here in Louisiana this winter, but it won't be until next winter before you begin to get your returns. These will be indirect returns. When they band in Canada, you get direct returns on ducks moving south. But, when you band on the wintering grounds, these birds have to go back north and then you get your returns on the hunting season the following fall. It is going to take an extended period of time to band these species of ducks other than mallards because they are extremely difficult to catch in large numbers and, additionally, you get a low band return rate on these other species. Therefore, you are going to have to band more of them to give you the same information.

MR. MARC DUPUY: You are basically in agreement, then, about the time period.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: Well, we were disappointed that they were thinking in terms of four years. We think it is longer than would be necessary. I think three years would be a much better time period, but this is one of the stipulations we have to agree to if we accept this proposal.

MR. DON WILLE: Dick, in terms of looking into the duck situation throughout the state, if we look at it like Texas Game and Wildlife, we could be raising local mallards. I'm thinking about now and we have to think about the future because there is nobody in this world that enjoys duck hunting more than these young folks right now. I'm thinking about the future and I think



if we have four years we can live with four years.. I think that if they feel it takes four years and we feel that it doesn't, we might be compromising a little bit on our end but we have to think about the long term future, wouldn't you say?

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: Yes, that's right. I think you have to accept the best offer you can get in this business and begin to work on that. Just follow through with it and as the time passes, we will gather a lot of information that will help us better manage waterfowl in Louisiana. I know in connection with the September teal season it took 7 years to get that September teal season from the time the first studies were made until we actually got that season going in 1965. We had it for two years and with a lot of opposition to it, they canceled in 1968. We again held a big review of this available information that showed that the teal population was not being hurt at all by that September teal season. We started again in 1969 and we have had it ever since. But, you are dealing with long-range wildlife management problems here. If you never get started on the study, you will never complete it but if you feel that it is 4 years and that is the minimum time they told us that they will accept for the study.

MR. DON WILLE: The only point I was trying to make was that we are going to have to look down the road at this thing and look toward tomorrow.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: That's right.

MR. DON WILLE: Marc, I know you made a real good point. I can appreciate your point and I would like to see it in 3 years,

too, but we have to definitely think of the younger people of this state. They are the ones who will be duck hunting in a few years. Some are duck hunting right now but I would like to see it better for my son and his son.

MR. JEAN LAPEYRE: Dick, in the absence of our accepting this proposal from the Department of the Interior, what sort of a data collecting program would you envision before we could get any positive response to our original request which was to be transferred to the Central Flyway.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: Well, in the words of Frank Bellrose, it would take 10 more years to gather enough information to reopen that case. See, they analyzed over 70,000 band returns to substantiate his report on why Louisiana should not, you know, be more realigned with the Central rather than the Mississippi Flyway and when you get into banding large numbers of birds and evaluating the information you get from the returns it just takes a long period of time but if you never get started on them--

THE CHAIRMAN: Some of you have traveled long distances but if you will return to your seats, we will continue with the hearing. Now, who was first?

(THE DISCUSSION CONTINUES AND VARIOUS INTERESTED  
PERSONS MADE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN)

THE CHAIRMAN: We need to decide whether or not the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission will accept the revised plan from the Department of the Interior.

We have with us a quorum--Mr. Wille, Mr. Dupuy, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Lapeyre.

Gentlemen, what is your pleasure?

MR. MARC DUPUY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that we accept the proposals of Lynn Greenwalt, Director, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as outlined in his letter of May 22, 1975, that Louisiana be divided into two zones and I would say as redefined by the revised line which is not in his letter of May 22nd, and that an evaluation program be conducted jointly by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do I have a second?

MR. DON WILLE: I'll second that motion, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Dupuy and seconded by Mr. Wille.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Angelle, as Secretary of the Commission, would you take the vote.

MR. J. BURTON ANGELLE: All of you that are in favor of the proposal as stated in Mr. Dupuy's motion, please vote "yes" when your name is called.

Commission Member, Don Wille.

MR. DON WILLE: Yes, sir.

MR. ANGELLE: Commission Member, Marc Dupuy.

MR. MARC DUPUY: Yes.

MR. ANGELLE: Commission Member, Jimmie Thompson.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: Yes.

MR. ANGELLE: Commission Member, Jean Lapeyre.

MR. JEAN LAPEYRE: Yes.

MR. ANGELLE: Commission Member and Chairman, Clay Luttrell.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chairman doesn't have a vote of my own but I do have a vote that I want to register and this is why our Secretary called me.

I have a proxy here issued by Mr. Doyle Berry to the Chairman of the Commission asking me to vote "yes." This is duly signed and witnessed by Mr. Thompson and I would like to enter it for the record.

MR. ANGELLE: The vote is six in favor of the proposal and none against.

THE CHAIRMAN: The motion is carried.

THE CHAIRMAN: This gentlemen tried for a long time to get my attention a minute ago and when I did get a change to recognize him I kept waiting for him to come up and then he was looking in another direction. Now, I'm sorry, but we were fixing to have the motion and now if you care to talk we would like to hear you, sir.

MR. JAMES QUIBODEAUX: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, for coming up at an inappropriate time.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is all right.

MR. JAMES QUIBODEAUX: The only thing I ask is this the only alternative we have. Did the federal government, as the

Commission used quite through the whole conversation, the whole meeting, in past tense. They dictated and we accept. I agree with it.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think I have misunderstood you.

MR. JAMES QUIBODEAUX: Mr. Chairman, what I am asking is what is proposed to us and which we have accepted and I voted and I think it is a great proposal for us, but is that the only alternative? What I am trying to say is--do we have any other alternatives?

THE CHAIRMAN: Not as I see it. No, sir. We could have voted it down. Yes, sir. If you are asking, did we have to accept it. No, sir. We accepted it because we thought it was the best season.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: As I interpret it, we don't really have anything to do at all. We, by us concurring, only add some fodder to their arguments or whatever. Whatever regulations they send out here, we have no choice. If they say you are going to cut this state this way, or this way, that's it. We have no choice. We are just concurring with what they have proposed. Do you follow what I am telling you?

MR. JAMES QUIBODEAUX: That is exactly what I'm asking.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: We don't have any choice. We have no alternative. We have no choice other than to be for or against it.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would like to give some clarification here if you will permit it. The Interior Department came down on the proposal that we did not accept and we went back and after

some discussion they altered the program until we gained some extra territory. Under those conditions, we are now accepting their recommendations. I believe that is what you wanted.

MR. JAMES QUIBODEAUX: I didn't know that we had been offered prior before that you guys had negotiated.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: The original line did not come here but came here. And, up here, in the extreme north, it came over further to the west on the other side of the river. Now, that's the only two changes that our people were able to get. They made a special trip to Washington yesterday and saw Bennett Johnston and several other political people and they were able to get these changes which are small but are more than what we had. But, that was all that they could get.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do I hear a motion to adjourn?

MR. MARC DUPUY: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: The chair declares the meeting adjourned.

. . . Thereupon, at 10:00 p.m.,  
on Wednesday, June 11, 1975, the  
special Board meeting was  
adjourned . . . .